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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

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American Socialist
Now Means Party
Members Later On

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304

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AMERICANS! YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

THESE ARE sad and dark days in the history of the Republic of the United States.

Americans! If there ever was a time when your country needed YOU that time is NOW!

The greatest crime committed against the United States since war was declared is the conspiracy to prevent the holding of the National Constituent Assembly of the People's Council.

No greater violation of our national constitution has taken place since that document was brought into life 130 years ago this month.

Free press, free speech, free assembly is being strangled. But it will not be strangled to death. There are too many men and women in this broad land who love liberty to permit that.

AS WE go to press word comes from Hudson, Wis., that the local "Black Hundreds", after threatening to tar, feather and hang the representatives of the People's Council, had them deported—driven out of town.

It had been planned to hold the People's Council peace conference in Hudson, Wis., following the startling proclamation of Gov. Burnquist, of Minnesota, the governor who helped break the strike of Minnesota's cruelly exploited iron miners, that the gathering must not assemble in Minneapolis or anywhere else in that state.

WE CANNOT now prove that the national democratic administration is behind this very evident conspiracy to suppress the People's Council. But it is not lifting a finger to prevent this rending to pieces and desecration of our constitutional rights. It is just as silent now as it has been during the past two months when the right of free press has become a sham and mockery.

AMERICA'S greatest discussion of the rights of the masses during war time had been planned for Minneapolis, Sept. 1—6.

From coast to coast, following conferences in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco, the People's Council suddenly leaped from nothing into a national organization of threatening power for good.

It receives the support of Socialists, trade unionists, farmers, single taxers, pacifists, members of the United States senate and house of representatives. Behind it stand all who wish to struggle for democracy in the United States while we are being told that the nation's armies are carrying democracy to Europe.

ALMOST on the day of the gathering, while the delegates were speeding to Minneapolis from every corner of the land, Minnesota's governor struck from behind.

Governor Burnquist, ruthless as any German junker ever professed to be, telegraphed to the sheriff of Hennepin County (which includes Minneapolis) to prevent the meeting of the People's Peace Council, if the meeting will in any way tend to injure the government in the prosecution of the war. The governor's telegram follows:

"My attention has been directed to a so-called peace council to be held in Minneapolis beginning September 1, 1917. If the said meeting will in any way tend to injure the government in the prosecution of the war or disturb the peace within the city of Minneapolis, you are hereby ordered to prevent the holding thereof. Intentional or unintentional arousing of anti-American sentiment or the dividing of our forces through ill-considered and futile peace talk at this time will only aid and assist the enemy.

"Summon to your assistance such forces as you may need to execute the laws herein ordered. Advise me at once whether you will have sufficient facilities to cope with the situation."

THE SHERIFF of Hennepin County could hardly have read this telegram when he wired back to Governor Burnquist that, "after a thorough investigation he believed the proposed meeting would result in bloodshed, rioting and loss of life."

No statement could be more untrue. Socialist Mayor Van Lear, of Minneapolis, is in control of the police force of that city and could easily maintain order. There has not yet been a semblance of disorder, bloodshed, rioting, nor has a single life been lost at any of the peaceful conferences already held by the People's Council.

On the strength of the Sheriff's telegram the Governor issued a proclamation prohibiting the holding of the proposed meeting "in Minneapolis or elsewhere in Minnesota." In order to strengthen his position he added that "the meeting could only aid and abet enemies of the United States."

IMMEDIATELY he heard of the position taken by Governor Burnquist, in Minnesota, Governor Frazier, North Dakota's executive, elected by the Nonpartisan League, wired the officials of the People's Council as follows:

"The People's Council of America for democracy and peace will be guaranteed their constitutional rights in North Dakota. We are loyal and patriotic and believe in freedom of speech for all people."

Socialist Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, of Milwaukee, Wis., extended an invitation to the People's Council to meet in that city. He wired:

"If the principles of the bill of rights and the Constitution of the United States which guarantee liberty of speech and the right of the people peaceably to assemble to consult for the common good have been suspended in the State of Minnesota, I desire to inform you that both are living realities in the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin. I can assure you that should your organization desire to meet in this city it will be welcome."

ACCORDING to information received by The American Socialist, it was decided that it would be impractical to go to North Dakota. The choice finally fell on Hudson, Wis., only a short distance from Minneapolis.

Immediately the local and state Prussians in Wisconsin got busy and began stirring into flames every smoldering ember of chauvinism in Hudson. Speeches were made by the Kaisers of the municipality from the steps of the local armory with the result that Secretary Louis P. Lochner of the People's Council and his staff did not receive a very cordial reception. Reports from the Wisconsin city declare that the officials of the People's Council were deported to the tune of, "Get a rope!" "Get the tar and feathers!" "Hang 'em!", noble sentiments in a land said to be struggling for democracy.

The riot of lawlessness at Hudson evidently had the endorsement of Governor Philipp of Wisconsin. The peace pilgrims, after their return to Minneapolis, Minn., following their deportation from Hudson, Wis., continued to make plans for the holding of the conference.

Our latest information is that an effort may be made to hold it in Washington, D. C.

THUS is another crime added to the multiplying attacks on American institutions. The tyranny of Minnesota's czar, the Hudson deportation and the conspiracy to suppress the People's Council; all these now are enrolled with the deportation of 1,100 working men from Bisbee, Ariz.; the martyrdom of Frank Hill, at Butte, Mont.; the race riots at East St. Louis, Mo.; Houston, Tex., and many other cities; the driving of women and children into industry under the pretext that it is a war necessity; the breaking up of peaceful parades and demonstrations in Boston, Mass., Seattle, Wash., and elsewhere; the suppression of our press and the wholesale arresting and imprisonment of those who advocate peace and abhor war.

IT WILL be a difficult task to right the

wrongs that are being inflicted upon a patient people by the brutal and arrogant industrial autocracy that now has the nation in its grip. But these wrongs must be righted. And soon!

IT IS now more than two weeks since The American Socialist #1's application to have its second class mailing privilege restored. The despots now in control of the post office at Washington refuse to act on our application.

We are doing our best in this crisis. Only 30,000 copies of our August 18th issue were printed and sent out to the larger cities by express. The following week we did a little better; 35,000 copies of the August 25th issue going out by express to be distributed by carriers in the larger cities.

This week we are printing 80,000 copies and we feel confident that every one of them will be distributed by "The Red Express", now in good working order.

IN THE meantime we have also turned our subscription list over to a weekly called "The Eye-Opener", which has a second class mailing privilege and which will seek to serve our readers in addition to its own as long as it is permitted to do so. This explains why our readers are getting "The Eye-Opener" instead of The American Socialist, while many are getting both.

OUR greatest hope and inspiration is found in the spirited and growing response to our appeal for the raising of a huge "Free Press Defense Fund", to help get back The American Socialist's second class mailing privilege, to oppose with all the power that we possess the conspiracy to deprive other publications of this privilege, and to struggle as best we can against the crushing of the rights of free speech, free press and free assemblage.

THERE IS much and important work to be done. The press is our last refuge. They can break up our meetings, they can stop us from talking in public places; but they will have a hard time to stop us from writing and printing our ideas, our hopes, our aspirations.

Our press must be saved and strengthened at all costs. The living word, as it appears in our papers and in our literature, must not be permitted to die.

THE post office censorship is drawing the lines tighter. We thought it had gone to ex-

People's Council May Not Hear Maurer Make This Speech - We Print It Anyway

NOTE:—James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, and Socialist member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, was scheduled to make the accompanying speech as temporary chairman at the opening of the People's Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., Saturday, Sept. 1. This speech may never be made, but we publish it anyway. Maurer was last week prevented from delivering the substance of this address at Buffalo, N. Y., Gary, Ind., and other centers of super-jingoism. So here it is:

The subject of my address is, as the chairman has announced, Democracy and Terms of Peace. If a majority of the people agree with my views on this subject, or not, is indeed of little consequence. If my views are right then those who oppose me are wrong; if I am wrong, then my opponents are right. Right or wrong, if the United States is really what it claims to be—the defender of democracy, then we are all entitled to an expression of our opinions.

Any government that denies its people the right to express, freely and unrestricted, its views on questions of public policy is autocratic and despotic, and in such a country, democracy either never lived, or it has died. Autocracy and democracy cannot exist at the same place at the same time; the birth of either means the death of the other.

We are told that our entrance into the World War was to make the World safe for Democracy. But it seems that there are certain interests in this country, who seem to think that the only way to democratize Europe is to prussianize the United States. Immediately following our government's declaration of war against Germany, these interests using the war as a pretext demanded that all labor standards and laws be repealed or suspended; that our constitutional rights of free speech and public assemblage be suspended; that the press, not owned or controlled by those favorable to the war program be suspended; and anyone who holds views contrary to them, are branded as pro-Germans, and their views as treasonable.

THEY ARE THE SAME INTERESTS.

The same interests responsible for the deportation of American citizens in Arizona, the roasting to death of women and children in Ludlow, the horrors of Calumet, the recent murder of Frank Little in Butte, the massacre of workers in the State of Washington, Pittsburgh, Bayonne, West Virginia and in fact every other industrial center in the country, are trying to arouse our patriotic spirit by pointing to the outrages committed against the Belgians.

Knowing these people and the interests they represent we are justified in suspecting that their chatter about democracy, and their tears for poor Belgium are but hypocritical snares of pretense. I have lately travelled across this continent, from coast to coast, and all along the line an official spirit of intolerance has prevailed. Hails that had been

rented and paid for have been at the last minute locked against us, public parks closed against us, our right to free public assemblage on the public highway refused, and if permitted, broken up by the soldiers or police.

The independent press is being denied the use of the mails, even petitions to Congress have been declared unavailable.

THERE IS CAUSE FOR SUSPICION.

These constitutional rights and liberties of ours are being denied us by the very officials whose oath of office demands that these rights and liberties be protected. Any wonder that many of us look with suspicion upon the newspaper noise about the war making the World safe for Democracy?

Because the People's Council of America aims to defend our constitutional rights, and preserve every inch of democracy we ever had in the United States, we are denounced as being un-American, pro-German and traitors, by the very people who never in all their lives said or did a single thing for human happiness or democracy.

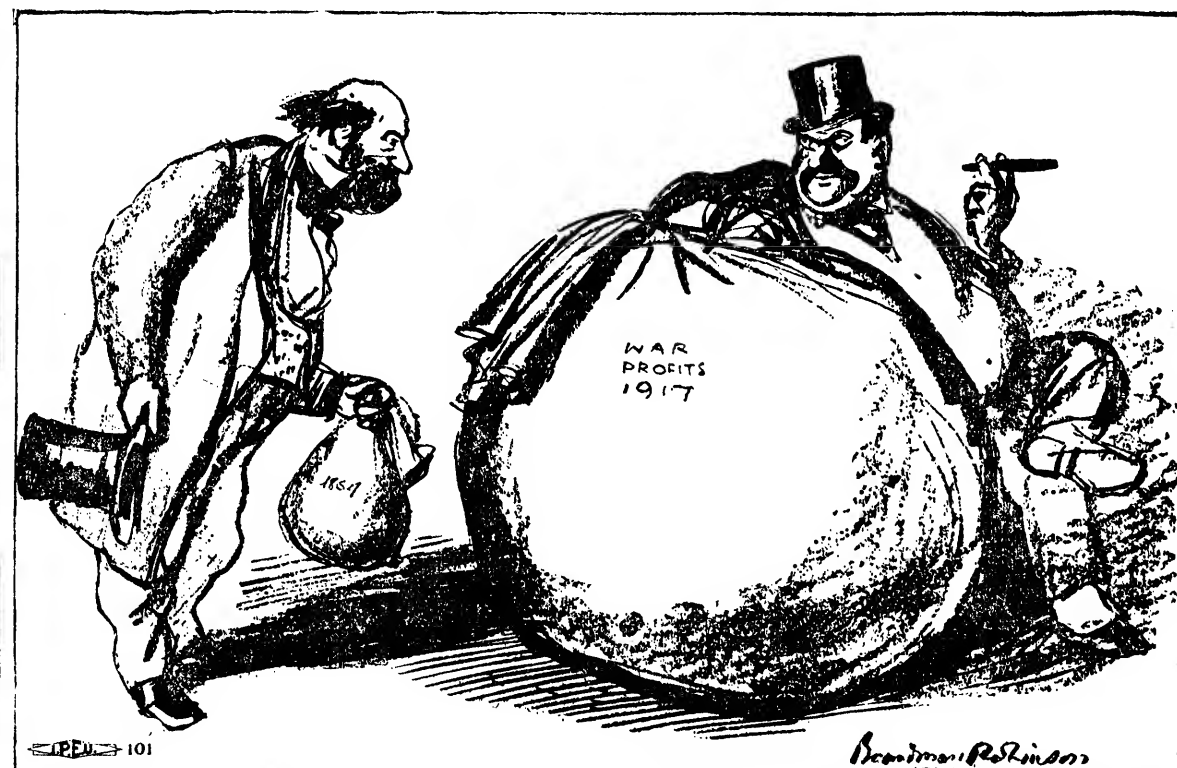
The saddest of all, lately certain so-called Socialists and organized labor men have cast their lot with these opponents of real democracy.

The very same interests which in the past corrupted our courts, denuded our forests, polluted our streams, robbed us of our lands and mineral deposits, exploited, oppressed, deported, imprisoned, starved, and in industrial disputes, unhesitatingly murdered the toilers, these are the people opposing the People's and Workmen's Council, democracy and our constitutional rights.

Whether conscious of it or not, these are the interests these so-called Socialists and labor men, who are now organizing a dual organization are serving. The People's Council of America never pretended to represent labor alone, organized or unorganized. The high handed methods used in denying the citizens of the United States, their constitutional rights, made it imperative that someone defend these rights. An organization, big enough and broad enough to admit all lovers of peace and democracy was organized and very appropriately named the People's Council of America, published its adopted program to the world, and invited all who wished to subscribe to its principles to join.

MORE THAN MILLION JOIN MOVEMENT.

More than a million people of all walks of life have already joined. It is in no way comes in conflict with organized labor or any other organization, political, religious or industrial. Therefore, why a dual organization. While I do not wish to be understood as minimizing the importance of our entrance into the war, what I fear, however, far more than the war is this: for many years organized labor and the Socialist movement were opposed and fought vigorously by the very interests now guilty of the outrages I have just briefly enumerated, and these are the principal factors responsible for



Civil War Profiteer: "What A Piker I Was."

tremes when it denied The American Socialist the right to publish news and articles relating and discussing the activities of the International Socialist movement. International Socialism, the hope of the world, in the eyes of the post office autocracy, is a crime, because the capitalist politicians fear it repudiates national governments.

Now comes the censor and declares that plans are under way to forbid the discussion of the financing of this war by the conscription of wealth, because this might discourage the masses of the people from investing their savings in war bonds.

The demand is daily growing louder in congress for drafting war profits and huge incomes to pay the cost of war. The attack is made on taxing the necessities of life and floating huge bond issues to be burdened upon the shoulders of future generations.

The censor is planning to throw his support to the war profiteers, the looters of the nation's wealth, by silencing every protesting voice. The scheme seems to be not only to make the people pay for the war but to

make them like it. No greater curb was ever placed upon free discussion.

EVERY liberty-loving American is called to the colors in this hour of trial to defend free American institutions now in danger of being crucified.

Americans! Your country needs you! It needs you now! We must resist to the last the invasion of our shores by despotic European institutions. We need no Kaisers, no Junkers, no Prussians to rule over us, to tell us what to think.

America must be the land of the free!

What Two Congressmen Think.

U. S. Senator Asle J. Gronna, N. Dak., writes: "I am very sorry indeed, to learn that the Postmaster General should see fit to exclude from the mails The American Socialist. While I am not a member of your party, I want to assure you that I want to see fair play. More than that, I believe that if the administration shall continue to exclude from the mails newspapers which may differ and also criticize the administration, it will be the means of creating dissatisfaction, and will ultimately destroy the party in power."

"It is not necessary for me to call your attention to the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States. That provision is so plain that no American citizen can fail to understand it, and I am sure it was the intention of the fathers who made the Constitution, that we should enjoy free speech, and freedom of the press."

"In my judgment, no government can continue to be a free democracy, if the cherished principles of free speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of conscience and religion, are to be hampered and discriminated against by official censorship."

Representative Stuart F. Reed, West Va. 3d district, writes:

"I want to assure you that I most earnestly desire to see every American institution and interest given a square deal, and cannot tolerate tyranny over any class or classes of people."

Gaining The Light

Senator Gore, Oklahoma, in telling the U. S. senate why he is opposed to sending conscripts to Europe, took occasion to have inserted in the Congressional Record the complete decision of Judge Rose, of Baltimore, Md., holding that a leaflet issued by the national office of the Socialist Party was not seditious and treasonable in spite of the fact that it had been so declared by the tyrannical censorship of the post office.

Judge Rose's decision, with Senator Gore's speech, was recently published in Hearst's Chicago American, several weeks after it had appeared in The American Socialist. We are forcing our fight upon the attention of the nation and if the people do not put an end to the outrages perpetrated by the postal department during the reign of Czar Burleson it will not be because of their ignorance as to prevailing conditions.

"Probably the most significant thing about the peace proposal from the Vatican is that it suggests peace on the Socialist basis of 'no annexations, no indemnities.' Certainly, it is not often that the Vatican and Socialism are in substantial agreement, but it would be difficult, indeed, to maintain, at least in this matter, that we are 'opposed to religion.'—The New York Call.

The junkers are on the job strong in Kenosha, Wis. When George Fischer, Jr., member of the city council, protested against the arrest of Ira V. Yingst, Socialist, on a trumped up charge of "disloyalty", he, too, was ordered to appear before the federal officials. When a member of the local board of education tried to intercede, he was kicked out of the federal building.

Dispatches from London state that the British government has sent lecturers among the soldiers on the western front to tell them about America's ideals, aspirations and endeavors in the war. Wonder what they are saying about the crushing of a free press, free speech and free assemblage in the United States.

Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin, in a speech to striking coal miners at Roundup, Mont., urged them to "hang together" to get their demands. If they don't they'll hang separately, a la Frank Hill; or get deported, after the fashion of Bisbee, Ariz.

Yes, wage slaves, it is even pro-German to demand that the rich pay some of the cost of this war.

"THANKS to the greed of business men who should be ashamed to call themselves American citizens, our population from coast to coast is being bled white of its money and health by the food grafters and profiteers. The only way to meet this situation is to meet it practically, by common sense methods, organizing and getting food from the producer to the consumer without any taint of illegitimate war profit between."—From speech of Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

We Violate No Law! But Our Power Grows! No Wonder They Hate, Jail And Persecute Us

One of the most successful meetings held in Chicago since the opening of the war took place Sunday, August 19, under the joint auspices of the People's Council and the Progressive Cigar Makers' Union at Riverview Park. The capitalist dailies were unusually bitter in their denunciations of this popular gathering. Among the speakers was J. L. Engdahl, editor of *The American Socialist*. He said:

WE come here to discuss our constitutional rights during war time. I hope this discussion, I know this discussion will lead on to something more effective. I know it will result in action to enforce the rights of free speech, of a free press and free assembly, rights guaranteed the American people under the constitution adopted by our forefathers more than 130 years ago.

During the week just past we had an example of such action down in the wide awake, forward looking city of Dayton, Ohio. After an exciting campaign, with the questions of international peace, free speech, a free press and free assembly, the great, dominating issues, the voters walked up to the ballot boxes and cast their decision.

The majority of those voters, under the standard of the Socialist Party, cast their ballots against conscription, in favor of peace, in favor of free speech, in favor of a free and outspoken press, in favor of the freedom of the people to gather in mass meetings to discuss the big, fundamental issues of the day and hour.

Roll Up Big Victory.
The candidates of the Socialist Party, the only great political party in this country that stands squarely upon the constitution of the United States—the candidates of this party received more votes than all the other candidates put together. The candidates on the citizen's ticket, representing the good people of Dayton, Ohio, who are making money out of this war—these candidates ran second. The candidates of the democratic party—the party that kept us out of war—ran a poor third. They were at the bottom of the heap.

This election in Dayton, Ohio, is an indication of what the verdict would be if the great masses of the people of the nation were given an opportunity to voice their sentiments on the problems confronting us. The fact that they have not been given this power is added evidence that those in power fear the thoughts that are now uppermost in the minds of the people.

The Associated Press, the worldwide news-gathering agency of the capitalist dailies, did not send one line over its wires about the magnificent victory scored by the people at Dayton, Ohio. Why? Let Melville E. Stone, head of this news trust, answer. He told us why on another occasion.

Occasionally how silent all the daily newspapers were when Representative Mason, of Illinois, made his never-to-be-forgotten speech in congress on the repeal of the conscription law. Someone wrote to Mr. Stone and asked him why his news agency had failed to send an account of this speech over its wires. Mr. Stone replied that he didn't think that was the kind of news the people wanted to read at least that was not the kind of stuff they ought to read.

Bad News For Capitalism.
It is the same way with our victory at Dayton. They say that isn't the kind of news we ought to read, and so, in order to excuse themselves, they lie, and they know they lie, when they say that the people do not

want to read the news of their victories.

If the people do not want to read the truth, the good news about the people's victories, why is it that the administration in power is so anxious to suppress the Socialist, labor, radical and pacifist publications that tell the truth?

If the people do not want to hear the truth, why is it that the administration in power is so anxious to intimidate and imprison the speakers who dare tell the truth during these dark days?

Why is it that they break up our parades and demonstrations with their "Black Hundreds"; why is it that the administration in power goes out of its way to force the owners of public meeting places to forbid us the use of their halls, their auditoriums, baseball parks, or any other spot where people might gather, to talk over the affairs of the day?

There is only one conclusion and that is that the Constitution today is but a scrap of paper. To write, speak or even think the truth has become a crime punishable by 20 years in prison or a \$20,000 fine or both.

Need Man Power Interpretation.
We need a change. We need a new interpretation of the constitution. We need an interpretation of the constitution by the man power of the nation and not by the money power of the nation.

If the people today had the interpretation of the constitution in their power, members of the Socialist Party and of the People's Council would not be arrested and imprisoned on charges of "breeding disloyalty and tending to discourage volunteering, recruiting and disobedience to the administration in power."

The Socialist Party and the People's Council are the two greatest patriotic organizations in the United States today. They are the only two big bodies of thinking men and women who are preaching loyalty to the great masses of the people.

I charge now that some of the greatest traitors to our country, some of the greatest enemies of the nation are Armour, Swift, Morgan, Rockefeller, the beef trust; Charles Schwab and Gary of the steel trust; the DuPonts of the Powder Trust; Jawn Dee Rockefeller of the Oil Trust, and J. Pierpont Morgan of the Bankers' Trust. Add to these all the other big profiteers that are coming hundreds of millions in profits out of this terrible slaughter.

Urges Prison For Profiteers.
Every time one of these men and their pals rake in a few millions more in profit out of the suffering of the people, a million more men and women give up hope and faith in the administration in power.

If the people today, this afternoon, had the power to enforce their will, Armour, Swift, Morgan, Rockefeller, and all the rest of them would be arrested within the hour and charged with disloyalty and treason; while all the Socialists and members of the People's Council who are now in jail or out on bail would be freed and voted medals of honor.

Our people today are not suffering the wrath of the administration in power because we have committed any crime. I have already pointed out who the real criminals are. We are being victimized because we really speak what is in the minds of the people, and the organization that gives voice to what the masses think is feared and hated because of its power.

The Socialist Party has gained 25,000 new members since the war started. The People's Council is becoming a power in every city, town and hamlet in the nation. That is why they hate us, fear us, persecute us.

I recently accompanied the committee of prominent men sent to Washington to protest against the autocratic power being exercised by the post office to crush our newspapers and bar our literature from the mails.

After we had found that little was to be gained either from the department of justice or the post office department we called on members of the United States senate and the house of representatives.

Both senators and representatives protested that it was never intended that the now infamous censorship provisions of the espionage law should be used to suppress thinking newspapers. This power had been assumed by the post office entirely upon its own initiative.

We learned incidentally that the fear of Socialism was big in the hearts of the democratic and republican politicians.

The democrats said there would be only two parties in the field in the congressional elections in November next year—the democratic and Socialist parties.

The republicans said there would be only two parties in the field in the next national election—the republican and Socialist parties.

The democrats were saying "Good bye!" to the republicans, and the republicans were saying "Good Bye!" to the democrats.

And they were both shaking hands and saying, "How do you do?" to the Socialists.

In fact, one republican of national renown, claimed he would rather run on the Socialist ticket in the next national campaign, because, he declared, he would stand a better chance of election.

(To be concluded next week.)

The Political Program

By MORRIS HILLQUIT.

If the Socialists were in control of Congress, what would be the first thing they would do?

This is one of the questions most frequently addressed to the Socialist propagandist. On the surface the question seems perfectly legitimate, but on closer analysis it will be found to be based on a misconception of the Socialist philosophy and a wrong notion of the established course of social and political progress.

Socialization Not "First Thing."
The one great aim of all Socialists is the socialization of the industries, but that is obviously not the "first thing" that Socialists in office could attempt to bring about.

The collective ownership of the social instruments of wealth production cannot be established by a single legislative enactment. Rather will it be the culmination of a long series of political and industrial reforms of a socialistic nature.

These reforms will be numerous and varied in character and scope. Some of them will have to be dealt with by Congress, others by state legislatures or local political units.

The measures will probably not present themselves always and everywhere in the identical form and sequence. Accidental occurrences and local conditions may force different issues to the front at different times and places.

To determine in advance the exact succession of proposed Socialist reforms would be an idle undertaking. The test of practicality of Socialist policies is not whether the Socialists are agreed on a "first" practical measure, but whether they present a political program comprehensive enough to meet all important social problems of the day. They do.

Political Program Definite.
The Socialist Party has a very definite political program, which differs radically from the platforms of all other political parties in scope, structure and contents.

The political platforms of the old parties are built largely on the same plan as a menu a la carte in an opulent restaurant. They are framed to meet all tastes and to satisfy all appetites. Their object is to "catch votes"—all kinds of votes, and each of their "planks" is designed to appeal to a special class of voters.

The manufacturers and the workers, the railroad magnates and the farmers, the producers and consumers, the foreign-born citizens and the negroes of the South in turn receive promises, pledges or compliments.

The platforms are mainly adjusted to the minor "issues" of the hour and usually fight shy of the more vital and permanent social problems of the nation. The planks are often inconsistent and meaningless, and are never cemented by a cohesive social philosophy.

There is hardly a pledge in the platform of the Republican Party that could not find legitimate lodgment in that of the Democratic Party and vice versa. Very often it is a race between the two old parties for the most popular issue, and sometimes both endorse the same popular demands with varying degrees of emphasis.

It would be a vain task to attempt to distinguish the social philosophy of the Bryan platform of 1908 from that of the Roosevelt platform of 1904, or that of the Parker platform of 1904 from the Taft platform of 1912.

Socialists Have Definite Aims.
The political platform of the Socialist Party, on the other hand, is based on a definite social conception and on a dominant and consistent political purpose.

The Socialist aim in politics is to better the lot of the workers, to curb the power of the capitalist classes, to extend the social and industrial functions of the government and to place the latter more directly in the hands of the people—all with the ultimate object of transforming the present industrial and political system into a social democracy.

These aims are formulated in concrete and definite planks or "demands," which constitute the invariable political platform of Socialism.

The Socialist platform may be re-drafted periodically and greater prominence may be given to the issues surging to the foreground at a particular time, but on the whole it is practically unchangeable. It could not consistently be otherwise.

The Socialist Party was organized for the accomplishment of a definite social and political purpose. Its platform is but the expression of that purpose and a statement of the steps by which it is expected to be realized. So long as that purpose remains unaccomplished and so long as the party adheres to its main aim, principles and methods, so long must the substance of its platform remain intact.

After each of the six suffrage petitions of the president at Washington had stood up before Police Judge Pugh last Friday and had demanded a jury trial, the judge sentenced them to "twenty-five dollars or 30 days." He not only refused to let them face a jury trial, but he tried at first to keep out of the record the fact that they had asked for a jury.

Police stopped a projected meeting for conscientious objectors to war under the direction of the Philadelphia branch of the People's Council which was to have been held in the Arch street theater. The action of the officials came after a crowd estimated at 10,000 had packed the neighborhood of the theater waiting to be admitted.

Plan To Draft War Profits Now Before U. S. Senate

Borah Insists That Conscription Of War Profits Will Fix War's Cost On The Rich -- Where It Belongs

The past week has witnessed an historic debate in congress on the question of conscripting wealth for war purposes. We herewith reproduce extracts from the speeches of Senators Borah, Gore and Thomas on this great question.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, supported the conscription of war profits in a vigorous attack on the bond issuing policy which omits the administration's revenue bill, especially condemn it for taking but a paltry \$562,000,000 of war profits out of an admitted six billions.

"Raising the money to carry on this war means business worry, countless hours of grinding toil, means sacrifice, means children deprived of education, means families deprived of the necessities of life," said Borah.

"When we think of the deprivation, the hours and weeks and months and years of drudgery to meet these obligations, we realize that the suffering and the agony of the battlefield are not the only suffering, the only agony of this horrible sacrifice now imposed upon us as if by fate?"

"But how shall we meet the situation? There are three ways to meet it, one by loans, the other by taxes, and another by a combination of loans and taxes."

"The latter is of course the one we will pursue. It is extremely important to my mind, however, that we make taxation the fundamental principle of our revenue-raising policy and loans the incident."

Raise All Possible By Taxes.

"We ought to have the courage and the wisdom to raise all we can possibly raise by taxes. We ought to endeavor to pay as we go, in so far as we can do so. That is business. That is just. That is wise. The loan system is calculated to produce inflation and to demoralize business. It is bad finance and worse morals."

"I want to submit this plain simple proposition, which will go home to every lay mind in this land upon which public opinion this war must be fought."

"Do you think you are meeting the situation when you take \$562,000,000 from some \$6,000,000,000 of war profits?"

"How shall we face our constituencies and what answer shall we make to posterity in leaving these accumulated profits practically untouched and unscathed, while we impose upon the common people of this country and that is what a bond issue means—some \$10,000,000,000 in the way of indebtedness and accumulated interest?"

"Remember that wealth will buy them, hold them, collect interest, and that when war profits are gone the necessities of life will be taxed to pay."

"Is this the purpose for which we have been sent here? Is this our portion of the task?"

Weeks For Blood Profiteers.

"The Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. Weeks, said that we should not so tax the business of the country as to destroy its productive efficiency. 'We are all agreed to that. Certainly that would be disastrous. It would injure the whole country—labor even as much as capital.'

"But do you think when you take \$562,000,000 out of some six billion dollars of war profits that you are destroying, or touching the line where you would destroy, the productive efficiency of the country?"

"If you should take, in addition to \$562,000,000 another \$562,000,000 from the six billions of war profits, do you think you would have reached the point where you need discuss the productive efficiency of the business of the country?"

"If you should in this great emergency take all the war profits, leaving the normal profits, would it destroy productive efficiency?"

"Instead of convicting at this increase of the cost of living, instead of conspiring to aid inflation we ought to exert every energy along opposite lines. It is one of the remorseless axioms of war that, do the best we may, it is impossible to distribute its burdens, its sufferings, and sacrifices equally among the people."

"The poor will grow poorer and the rich are made richer even under the most equitable and just laws which can be passed. The most of the fighting is done by the humbler or less well-to-do people—if for no other reason because there are more of them and they make up the fighting forces. They make the supreme sacrifice. When they leave their homes to go to the front those they leave behind are less equipped, less fitted to meet the struggle for existence."

"The rise in prices which always accompanies war and which is aggravated, as I have said, by bond issues, pinches with more poignant effect those who were but poorly living upon their means."

"To thousands and hundreds of thousands the rise of prices means children kept out of school, handicapped in the battle of life; means less food, stunted bodies, and disappointments and broken plans and ambitions. If in addition to all this we lay on even a slight additional tax, while it may seem slight to us, it falls with a heavy and crushing effect upon the poor."

Surplus Wealth, Excessive Profits, And Large Incomes Pay Far Too Little, Say Senators Gore And Thomas

In a joint criticism of the war revenue bill, Senator Gore and Senator Thomas indicted it for its evident attempt to saddle the cost of the war on the poor while resorting to wholesale exemptions of the rich.

"By the method of taxation proposed in the bill and the report of the majority of the members of the Committee on finance," declares the statement of the senators from Oklahoma and Colorado, "the tax burden is unjustly distributed in that it will fall with undue weight upon those least able to bear it, while surplus wealth, excessive profits, and large incomes pay far too little."

Bond Issues Denounced.

"Of all forms of taxation, that involved in bond issues is the worst. The people must redeem the bonds, principal and interest, and in a comparatively short space of time the interest comes to equal and exceeds the principal."

"The burden of taxation should be apportioned among the taxpayers in proportion to their ability to pay. Income or profits constitute, if not the best, at least one of the best standards by which to measure ability to pay."

"Nothing can more certainly invite disaster to our arms by destroying popular confidence in the purposes of the war than to pass a bill which heavily taxes the necessities of life of the poor while lightly touching the luxuries of the rich."

"We claim to have profited by the military experiences and mistakes of the other warring countries, particularly Great Britain, and therefore to have adopted the policy of drafting men into the army from the very start."

Urges Draft Of Wealth.

"Why, then, should we not profit by the financial experience and mistakes of other countries, particularly Great Britain, and therefore draft wealth in the form of taxation into the service of the country from the very start?"

"Great Britain levies a flat rate of 80 per cent on war profits, and that rate, if adopted by Congress would yield \$2,300,000,000 in revenue if based upon war profits for the calendar year 1917."

"The British income tax last year yielded one billion dollars in round numbers. On the British basis similar income tax rates in the United States would yield about two and one-half billion dollars."

"From these two sources alone, the income tax and the war profits tax, we can raise, without subjecting the country to serious financial strain and without depriving the wealthy of even the luxuries of life, more than double the amount proposed in the bill submitted by the majority of the finance committee."

"This is the minimum amount which we can afford to provide by taxation from these sources at this time. To do less than that is to enter upon a course that is bound to be ruinous to the country on account of the excessive bond issues that will be required, and which is unjust and indefensible from every point of view."

Unfair To Tax Necessities.

"It is monstrously unfair to tax the everyday necessities of the average man and woman to pay the expenses of this war, in addition to commanding their service, and the lives of many of them, and of their children, so long as the swollen and abnormal war profits of the big corporations are not taken—profits which the war has created, and which will disappear as soon as the war ends."

"Every dollar of war profits can be taken and still leave the enormous peace time profits of the great corporations untouched."

"Every stockholder would still receive his handsome peace time dividends, every officer his princely salary, if all the war profits were taken."

"Will any one contend that the food and the medicine and the rest of the necessities of the poor shall be taxed so long as the enormous war profits remain as a source of revenue?"

Cannot Escape Socialism

By VICTOR L. BERGER.

With or without social reform we cannot escape Socialism. The cooperative commonwealth is the aim towards which, from a law of nature, the entire political and economical development of modern times is moving.

Socialism is the goal of the evolution. And not by any means a far distant goal. Nor is it the last station on the road which humanity will have to follow. Progress will never stop.

Socialism is the next station. We are speeding toward it with the accelerating velocity of a locomotive on the road.

It is only a convincing confirmation of this view that the "social question" now stands everywhere in the foreground of public discussion.

We all know from history that an old order of society was always doomed, when its appointed guardians and supporters felt called upon to make the demands of the adherents of the new order their own—when they tried to steal the revolutionist thunder, as the saying is.

Guilty? Of What?

NOTE:—Cleveland Socialists have issued a little pamphlet entitled "Guilty? Of What?" containing the speeches of C. E. Ruthenberg, Alfred Wagenknecht and Charles Baker before the jury that sentenced them to one year in the Canton, Ohio, jail for alleged opposition to the draft. The introduction to this pamphlet is as follows:

C. E. Ruthenberg, Socialist Candidate for Mayor, Alfred Wagenknecht, State Secretary of the Socialist Party, and Charles Baker, State Organizer of the Socialist Party, have been sentenced to serve a year in Canton Jail by Federal Judge Westenhaver. This is what they are guilty of: Having as Socialists declared before the beginning of the present war, that all modern wars are the product of the profit system, they dared show by facts and argument that the war this country is engaged in is a struggle over the commercial interests and property rights of the capitalist class. They dared speak the truth and declare that the claim that we are fighting for "democracy" was mere hypocrisy used to trick and delude the people.

They dared point out that the present administration had secured reelection by appealing for support because it had "kept us out of war" (a war for democracy it now calls it) and after its re-election had hurled us into the war against our will to fight for the profits of the capitalist class.

They dared denounce the conscription law as the rape of democracy in this country and to demand its repeal.

They dared pledge themselves to the principles of fraternity and brotherhood toward all people no matter what their race or nationality and to pledge themselves to refuse to murder their fellow human beings to preserve the profits and investments of the capitalist class of this country.

And because a certain Alphonse Schue failed to register for conscription and when caught, in order to save himself from punishment, said he had heard the speeches of these three men and on account of these speeches had not registered, C. E. Ruthenberg, Alfred Wagenknecht and Charles Baker are sentenced to serve a year in Canton Jail.

They are not under jail sentence because Schue did not register, but because the ruling class wants to stop further truth telling about the evil motives behind the war in which the lives of the youth of the nation are to be sacrificed. Schue is merely the excuse, the tool, thru which these men are to be stopped from working for Socialism, peace and democracy.

Pettigrew Gives Views

R. F. Pettigrew, former U. S. senator from South Dakota, notices the Draft Law passed by Wilson's Rubber Stamp Congress in language as follows:

"The conscription law passed by Congress is in violation of the spirit of American institutions and, in addition, is in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States in the following particulars:

FIRST: It violates Section 13, Subdivision 1, of the amendment to the Constitution, which reads as follows:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

That the conscription law imposes military, agricultural or industrial service under any conditions determined by the military or Congress as to hours conditions and pay.

SECOND: That it violates Article I of the amendments:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

That the conscription law does establish a religion, in that it gives a special privilege to members of a well-recognized sect and does not give the privilege to anyone who does not belong to any well-recognized religious sect, or those who have no religion at all.

THIRD: That it violates Article 1 of the Constitution, Section 8, Subdivision 15 and 16, which only gives the United States the right to call forth the militia in time of invasion or rebellion, and that neither an invasion nor a rebellion is taking place.

"To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years."

FOURTH: That it violates Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 1 of the Constitution which reads as follows:

"The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states."

That the law imposes military, agricultural or industrial service on all male citizens between the ages of 21 and 30 years, inclusive, with certain exceptions, and excluding the exempted class and older and younger males.

FIFTH: It violates Article 5 of the amendments to the Constitution, which reads as follows:

"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

It may be that the regular army of the United States can be sent abroad to fight and die for the armament makers and Wall Street manipulators—the regular army is a volunteer force and can be recruited in no other way, but the militia, which is the reserve force of the United States, cannot be sent abroad. The Constitution provides:

"The militia may be called forth to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrection and repel invasion."

But in no place does the Constitution permit or allow the sending forth of the militia to a foreign land or engage in foreign service. The Courts have passed upon this question repeatedly so that the doctrine is well established and I am of the opinion that any conscripted soldier will be discharged by any United States Court from the service of the United States whenever any effort is made to transport them abroad, if such conscripted man applies for a writ of Habeas Corpus.

Boston Journal Champoin Of Free Press and Speech

From The Boston Journal (Aug. 16)

A bill offered by Senator Myers of Montana prescribes jail terms for persons who speak disrespectfully of the president, the government or the congress of the United States. The Myers bill, broadly speaking, is aimed to penalize sedition but within the interpretation of any petty official it might punish an ordinary criticism.

Certainly no person or paper need speak disrespectfully, disloyally, violently, contemptuously, etc. But neither should the United States government, in its honesty and frankness, fear disrespectful or disloyal criticism.

A criticism of any given official may be in either bitter or mild terms. If it is offered for the purpose of calling attention to an evil, it cannot be disloyal, contemptuous, etc., but is, on the other hand, intensely patriotic. Under such a law as the Myers bill suggests, however, any criticism might be interpreted as disloyal.

The bill is a plain denial of American rights and would so operate. We advise the public to study every such bill introduced, and to be on guard against any slightest tampering with the constitutional guarantees of free speech and free press.

In this country we not only have numerous subjects which need full publicity, but we have ample laws for the protection of military secrets.

There is always the chance, of course, that the press may learn things for itself; and we do not want that chance destroyed. The British press learned for itself of the ghastly failure at Gallipoli, and forced the government to repair the damage as far as possible. The British press learned for itself of the Cornwallis-West scandal, a society woman holding reins on the field marshal. Inefficient cabinet ministers have gone under the hammering of the British press and Britain has profited hugely.

And in this country shall we blind the people by gouging out of the constitution the solemn promise of a free press?

Many people dislike the present make-up of this government. But is it not their own government, born in revolution and builded to make men free?

Surely the Myers bill could not be passed with the consent of the people. And the consent of the people never will be obtained for any such piece of autocratic savagery while the press remains free.

But why, people are asking, must this sinister effort to stifle free speech recur so persistently when we are offering a million of our sons on the altar of liberty? It speaks ill indeed, of our high national purpose.

Once and for all the president of the United States should give assurance that he will neither support nor countenance any scheme for reducing our freedom below the minimum point which it already has reached in these days of stern war reorganization.

If the American people are fit to fight for democracy as a great and democratic nation there is not the slightest danger that they will be swayed by shrill-voiced nobodies condemning the government.

Hang spies and the traitors; send the seditious to jail. But do so under the laws already on the statute books. We need not another line of law on that subject.

Any proposed law bearing upon the rights of the people and the press is now open to suspicion. The country does not need it, the people will not tolerate it.

Congress should know that in these nervous days even the faintest suggestion of added restrictions is regarded with dark suspicion and brings a sharp decline in the public confidence.

For Better Conditions

Who Shall Protect The Workers If Their Press Is Strangled?

A DANGER threatens you and your family. A greater peril than has ever before confronted our Republic, is upon us now. It is not invasion from without, it is destruction from within.

The rights, the liberties of the American working class have been threatened with extinction. The Constitution has been rendered out of force, and the Bill of Rights, guaranteeing freedom of speech, of press and of assembly, has been struck down by the hand of autocracy.

Clothed in the mantle of irresponsible authority, a subordinate law clerk of the Postoffice Department in Washington has suddenly assumed the powers of a THOUGHT-CONTROLLER of the nation.

At a time when the price of food goes higher and higher; when tremendous war loans are piled up mountainlike upon us, when every attempt on the part of workers to secure improvement in their condition is met with deportation, intimidation, threats and violence;

At a time when the Council of National Defense has turned Labor over, bound and gagged, into the hands of its enemies, to be dealt with as they will;

At this moment that last and most sacred right of labor, the right to ask better things, the right of a free press, is stripped away.

THE THOUGHT-CONTROLLER has stricken down at one blow more than a score of labor, Socialist and radical periodicals, who speak with the voice of labor. At one blow, a blow from behind, a stroke in the dark, more than a million readers of labor papers have been forbidden to know facts or to think thoughts that their press would give to them.

What protection have you or your children against oppression, if your press is strangled?

What safeguard is there for any freeman's rights, when the right of free press is taken away?

ARTICLE I of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States reads as follows:

"Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Without this addition, the Constitution

would never have been adopted. In obedience to its mandates, Congress struck from the espionage bill as first introduced, a provision placing the press of the United States under a strict censorship.

In the last days of the debate, after the censorship provision had been struck out in response to an overwhelming demand from the whole country, a clause was surreptitiously slipped in at the insistence of Postmaster General Burleson, authorizing him to stop any publication which might "obstruct recruiting."

Under cover of this surreptitious amendment, W. H. Lamar, solicitor of the Post Office Department, has struck. He has become plaintiff, prosecutor, judge, jury, executioner, and court of appeal; he is in absolute control of the press of the nation, and thru the press, of the thoughts and ideas of one hundred million people.

And he has promised to use this power ruthlessly against labor's press.

WHO SHALL present the arguments for a peaceable change, if the Socialist papers are killed?

What shall prevent the ever spreading discontent and murmuring of defrauded work-

ers from breaking out into disorder, if Socialism, which seeks to prevent violence, is not allowed to show the peaceful way toward change?

Acting on instructions from the National Executive Committee of the Socialist party, a committee went to Washington to investigate and protest.

And this is what they found:

The Department's position is that if a single issue of any paper is excluded from the mails for containing non-mailable matter, this destroys the continuity of the paper. Even tho the decision may not be reached for several weeks after the paper has been mailed, the theory is that if it is decided to be unmailable, it has in fact not been printed.

ACCORDING to the law, if any paper enjoying the privilege of second-class rates misses even one issue without valid excuse, it forfeits the right to the second-class rate.

Therefore; if even weeks after a single issue has been presented to go thru the mails, some clerk in Washington decides that it contains a sentence, a paragraph or even a word that this clerk does not like, that issue has never been printed: the paper is guilty of

criminal negligence, and is to be debarred from the mails.

Even the Department of Justice, the official legal department of the government, is unable to discover what is unmailable in the issues of The American Socialist which have been barred from the mails.

No answer is given to inquiries. We are not told what was wrong. We are given no guidance as to the future issues. We are told we ought to have known. But even the Governmental Department of Justice does not know. Only Lamar knows, and he won't tell.

WHAT is wrong? Is it that Socialism is spreading like wildfire, and Big Business everywhere is afraid.

What is wrong is that Socialism is gaining the upper hand thruout the United States. The world-catastrophe shows the breakdown of the capitalist system, so long foretold, so long prophesied by Socialists. We are getting ready in this country to take over the reins of government; and the Plutocracy fears us!

Who shall protect the workmen from robbery, if their press is strangled,

WILL YOU HELP US PUT AN END TO THE RULE OF GREED?

Cuban Workers Building Strong Socialist Party

Antonio Correa, secretary of the Socialist Party of Cuba, fraternal delegate of the Cuban labor movement to the Pan-American Federation of Labor Conference Committee, reached Washington this week.

Correa is also the secretary of the International Retail Clerks Union of Cuba, which has a membership of 70,000.

Correa's special work will be to study the American labor movement in both its political and industrial forms and make a report to Cuba in particular, and Latin America in general.

The Socialist Party of Cuba publishes a bi-monthly paper called "The Class Struggle." Correa was formerly the business manager of the paper.

"The Socialist Party is rapidly increasing in membership in Cuba," declared Correa. "Formerly our socialist organizers and lecturers were almost exclusively Spaniards. The Cuban government compelled them to leave Cuba. It has taken us some time to develop Cuban Socialists to take the place of the exiled Spanish Socialists. We have accomplished the task, however, and are now well started toward a bona-fide class-conscious nation-wide Cuban Socialist Party."

Correa holds the Cuban workers must be thoroughly organized, politically and industrially, in order to emancipate the Cuban workers from American capitalism which now dominates the island.

Private Ownership Folly Exposed In San Francisco

By JACK JUNGMEYER.

The difference between a street railway system run as a public utility and one operated primarily for the benefit of stockholders is being glaringly demonstrated in San Francisco, Cal., during the United railway employees' strike.

The situation in San Francisco today is the strongest possible argument for publicly owned traction lines.

When the United railway platform men, numbering about 2,000, refused longer to operate the cars unless they were paid \$3.50 for an 8-hour day the company said it was an impossible demand.

But in the same city, on the same streets virtually, and under identical conditions, the San Francisco Municipal railway is paying its men \$3.50 per day for eight hours work.

And the city is making money on its railway.

Hits Gompers' Attitude

Paul Scharenberg, editor of the Coast Seamen's Journal, speaking for the International Seamen's Union of America, takes exception to Gompers' attitude on the aims and efforts of the People's council. He says the labor press can ill afford to be silent on the important questions of What Are We Fighting For?

He also scores the executive council of the American Federation of Labor for doing what no other national labor organization in Europe has dared to do, by putting the ban on the Stockholm conference proposed by the Russian council.

Scharenberg reminds Gompers at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor the delegates did not mince words in the solution they adopted in opposition to the officials on war and militarism, and he says that the coming convention in Buffalo will give a hearty welcome to efforts being made to bring about peace by working class action.

OUR BOOK SHOP.

Socialism For The Farmer; by Oscar Ameringer. Price 10 cents. (Admirable for getting farmers into the Socialist Party.)

General Bankruptcy or Socialism; by Lucien Sanial. Price 5 cents. (A prophecy of the conditions which now confront us, written just prior to the outbreak of the war.)

Public Ownership of Railways; by Carl D. Thompson. Price 10 cts. (An illuminating discussion of the big problem now confronting the American people.)

National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Unfair!

NOTE.—The Illinois Federation of Labor denounces the so-called "fairness" of the capitalist newspapers in a scathing attack on the manner in which they reported the findings of the grand jury that investigated the East St. Louis, Ill., race riot. The statement prepared on this question declares that:

Newspaper editors frequently resent the charge, often made, that a great part of the press fails to deal fairly towards labor, in the publication of news, and that news articles are deliberately colored to favor and protect the employing interests. "It is true that we do not always understand the issues and thus fail to properly construe the facts reported, but few editors are guilty of deliberately distorting the truth," say they. Why then did so many of them suppress that part of the East St. Louis grand jury report which condemned the action of certain employing interests? Every newspaper in Chicago cut it from its columns. One morning paper carried the full report in which is small, but when the large regular edition appeared all reference to the employers' responsibility had been removed. Was not this deliberate distorting of the truth by withholding information for the purpose of shielding the employers? The full report was sent over the wires by the press associations. The part suppressed by the editors refers to the labor situation and then continues:

"That employers abused this situation seems to us to be a warranted charge. Every community should assure good living conditions to all without regard to racial questions, but the intent of the employers to place the workers of one race at a disadvantage by notoriously favoring workers of another race must draw down condemnation."

"Of the many instances where this has been done we cite one form. It is the curbing of the large industrial plants in East St. Louis to maintain a so-called employment gate, where men, white and colored, assemble each day to seek work. Often the employer marched up to this gate and in an uncalled for and offensive manner caused the white applicants to stand back and made his selection from among the negroes. This open flaunting along racial lines injures the negro no less than the white man, for it is predicated on racial indifference."

Some editors, by the way, made the peculiar "mistake" of using the words "an unwarranted charge" instead of "a warranted charge," and then, to make the lie plausible, cut out the remaining sections of the two paragraphs quoted above!

Forcing Socialism

The spectre of state Socialism threatens to materialize and the tactics of the owners of public utilities and natural resources are rapidly bringing about a condition which invites the forces of the present industrial system fear. The greed of the profiteers is forcing the masses of mankind to combine for self protection and it will not be surprising if out of the present war emerges a new system of government founded upon the principles advocated by the more conservative Socialists.—From The Union (Sacramento, Calif.)

The kind of socialism that is represented by government control over the production, sale and distribution of the necessities of life will become increasingly popular as the war forces the necessity therefor upon our attention, and we are not likely to give up the benefits to be expected, once we have tasted of them. Few will quarrel with anything that tends to make the cost of living less.—From The Record (Fort Smith, Ark.)

THE SUPPRESSED PRESS.

The suppressed press is speaking louder than when allowed to speak freely. The Masses and The American Socialist seem to be the special targets at which the post office censors are directing their attacks. Both papers are being bought by the public.

The International Socialist Review also seems to come in for its due share of boost by Mr. Lamar. Like Madden who made The Appeal To Reason famous, Lamar seems determined to boost all the Socialist press.—From The World (Oakland, Cal.)

Here Is The Nation's Answer

Comrade Z. L. Bailey, Indiana, rushes in a contribution list containing \$7.25 and trusts that the comrades all over the country will respond liberally.

A money order for \$2 comes from "Somewhere in Highland, Ill." to help out in the present crisis.

Comrade T. J. Eiler, of DeWitt, Ohio dropped into the office for a visit while in Chicago the other day. Before he left he had contributed \$1 to the Free Press Defense Fund.

Comrade C. S. Haskin, Indiana, sends in a record contribution list containing an even \$10.

A comrade down in Mobile, Ala., sends in \$1 and wishes he could make it \$100.

Four contributors in Hagerstown, Md., join in sending \$1.25 to help swell the Free Press Defense Fund.

Comrade Ellen Persons, Dowagiac, Mich., sends in \$5 as, "A little donation to help in the censorship fight."

Comrade C. H. Bloom, our hustler at Rockford, Ill., sends in his contribution and asks for a bundle of The American Socialist to sell on the streets in this coming Socialist city.

"I am with you until we win" accompanies a \$1 bill from New Baden, Ill.

"I am very sorry to hear that our paper has been suppressed," says a Kansas City, Mo., comrade in sending in \$1, because he says "I believe that we should do everything in our power to get a new second class mailing permit and keep The American Socialist alive. Yours for Socialism and a more civilized world." They are "pressing" us hard, comrade, but we have not yet been "suppressed."

"Will send more later to help along," says a letter from West Union, Ind., that contains five contributions amounting to \$1.25. The letter also states that the sender, "Will send more later if the paper gets started again." Comrade! The paper has not stopped. The post office censorship merely caused us to hesitate for a minute or two. That's all! Send in the subs!

"I miss The American Socialist in my post office box badly. Get busy," writes one of our subscribers in Oatman, Ariz., and sends \$5 to help us get busy.

"Best wishes for the future of The American Socialist," says "A Friend" in Galesburg, Ill., as he sends in \$1. "Good luck to you in your fight against the tyranny of 'our postal authorities,'" writes Dr. Frederick A. Blossom, of New York City, treasurer of the Birth Control League of New York, as he sends in his check for \$1.

"It sure is an inspiration to see how some of the old time workers are coming to the front and back into the local as soon as there is a crisis big enough to be called one," declares Comrade Bessie E. Davis, Michigan, as she sends in \$2.32 collected on a list. She says, "I may be able to get more later."

"I read in The New York Call of your need for funds to recover second class mailing privileges for The American Socialist," writes Comrade Caroline E. Nichols, Connecticut, enclosing \$1.

"Hope to see The American Social-

ist win out," accompanies a \$1 contribution from A. J. McGregor, Michigan. We know it will!

The secretary of the Carpenters' Union in an Indiana town sends in \$3.80, "To help get The American Socialist back in the mails. This is a small amount," he says, "but I think if every hustler will do as well we will get thru all right." You bet we will.

Comrade O. S. Watkins, "Somewhere in Minnesota," the state that put the lid on the People's Council Peace Conference, sends in his check for \$2, to help us get back our second class mailing privilege from those who have taken an oath to safeguard and protect our personal rights and privileges, "which the constitution of the United States gave us."

Comrade J. B. Byrnes, Washington, sends in his contribution and suggests we increase the subscription price of The American Socialist.

"The people must be informed as to what is going on in the United States of America," writes a Montana contributor, who also incloses a nice big list of subs.

A Louisville, Ky., street car conductor who is doing his best to support a wife and four children on 25 cents an hour wages, sends in his contribution to defend the right of a free press.

"I am sorry that the government has taken the stand it has toward The American Socialist," writes one of our New Jersey woman comrades. She sends in \$1 to help carry on this fight "for the good of all."

From The Firing Line

"We are still working for Socialism here, war or no war, censorship or no censorship, writes a comrade from Iowa who sends in good list of subs.

"If you will send me the names of all subs in my town, and send the papers by express, I will pay express charges and deliver them until better times," says another subscriber in Iowa, who sends a list of subs and a substantial contribution to help us back our second class mailing privilege.

"We have just organized another Socialist Local. We mean to take advantage of the present grave crisis and furnish the workers with all the literature we can get. We will buy. Another comrade and myself went out doing the work of Uncle Sam, that is, delivering literature, especially The American Socialist. We secured nine applications for membership in the party, several subs to The American Socialist and the Appeal to Reason. As Car Burleson has placed the ban on The American Socialist, I suppose you will be obliged to send the papers by express," writes a comrade in Lansing, Mich.

"Send me 200 copies of the Labor Day edition. I am making the most of this thing while the war lasts for it may not last forever," writes a comrade from Muscatine, Iowa.

Comrade Erik L. Nyland, sends a contribution to assist The American Socialist in its struggle for "right and justice."

"I can not get along without the paper," writes a comrade who sends in a renewal.

A comrade in Transfer, Pa., sends in a list of subs and says, "There are two new ones in this list who have become disgusted with the old parties and have deserted them forever."

"I have often thought that as soon as I could I would take as many Socialist papers as possible, for I think it is every true Socialist's duty to do that little bit for the publishers of Socialist papers in return for the fight you are waging for us."

"We will not do without The American Socialist even if it must cost one dollar per year. If we cannot obtain second class mailing privileges within six months, we will again forward extra postage money," writes a comrade in Highland, Ill., who sends extra postage for his paper.

"Sorry I cannot send more," accompanies a 50 cent contribution from "Somewhere in Newburg, N. Y."

Local Duval, Fla., sends in \$3.30. The local secretary writes, "We sincerely hope The American Socialist will overcome the resistance offered by the postal autocracy, and that it will become a greater factor than ever in hastening the Social Revolution."

"Hope this will help you keep the paper in circulation," is the message that accompanies a contribution of three comrades in Norfolk, Va.

"I am sending you my widow's mite," accompanies a \$2 contribution from Roanoke, Va. "Trust it will help. I love our cause and our paper. Am glad to help in its present trouble. May the Henry Dubbs awake to their interests."

"May the good work go on and may our Cause triumph," is the hope that accompanies a list of five contributions amounting to \$2.25 from Bernidji, Minn.

"My politics have never been Socialist until now," writes a contributor from East Pittsburgh, Pa. "I think I shall vote from now on as it seems to me it is the only party for the people and by the people."

"I feel lost without The American Socialist," accompanies a contribution from Columbus, Ohio. "Win we must for our cause is just. The Socialists will have five candidates on the ticket here this fall, AND BELIEVE ME THEY WILL BE ELECTED."

"After reading the first page of The Eye-Opener at our local meeting a collection was taken up and we got \$3.30 to help our paper in its time of need," comes from the local secretary at Woonsocket, R. I.

Sauk Rapids, Minn., comes in with a contribution of \$2.75 for the FREE PRESS DEFENSE FUND and a promise to get busy organizing a local station of "The Red Express."

"We trust that intelligence and humanity may soon triumph over the hosts of tyranny," accompanies a list of contributions amounting to \$2.25 from Palestine, Texas.

Two friends of honest government at Bainbridge, Ohio, send in \$2.

"I will help more next pay day," writes a comrade in Albion, Pa., as he sends in \$1.

"Let each one of us do likewise or better," accompanies a \$1 contribution from Tampa, Fla. "We must fight our enemy—the capitalist system."

"I hope to collect more in a few days," says a note attached to a \$2.50 contribution list from Friend, Neb.

"I wish you a world of luck," writes an Arkansas mother, sending 50 cts.

"I wish you the greatest success in the great fight before you," accompanies \$1 from Logansport, La.

Butte, Mont., comes to the front with a contribution list containing \$4.05.

"I hope you will be successful in your fight," drops in with 50 cents from Martin's Ferry, Ohio.

"I will pay for mine at any cost. We must have The American Socialist at all hazards," writes a contributor from Albany, New York, sending in \$1.

The jingo sheets down in Indiana are getting excited because many cities thruout the state are being covered with Socialist literature, the kind the people like to read.

War by the profiteers upon the labor movement of the United States had a bad setback when an agreement was signed to insure labor standards in American shipyards for the period of the war.

The movement to import Chinese coolie labor to take the jobs of the men who go to war is gaining ground. In Canada, where the labor forces made heroic efforts to stave off compulsory servitude, including conscription, the issue will first have to be met.

Brunswick, Md., Socialists have elected another councilman. They now have two out of six. "We are getting one at a time," writes the local secretary. "We will soon catch the entire roost. The boys here are imbued with a new spirit since our victory at the polls."

The Petrograd Utró Rossijó confirms the recently reported execution of thirty-two Socialists in Jassy, the provisional capital of Rumania. One of the executed men was S. Wechsler, the leader of the Rumanian Socialist Party, who was accused of having aided the well known revolutionist Rakowsky to escape from prison.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPT.

Organization — Education — Solidarity.

WILLIAM Z. KRUSE — Director

To reach the nation's youth with the message of Socialism and to bring them into the organized Socialist movement through Young People's Socialist Leagues. Address all communications to: Socialist Party Young People's Dept., 403 W. Madison St., Chicago.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST. Entertainment question: "How to put on a play."

First Prize, 10 points, won by Tom Matthews, Omaha, Neb.

Second Prize, 7 points each, won by Florence Johantzen, Queens No. 1, N. Y.; Simon Warshofsky, Rochester, N. Y.

Third Prize, 4 points each, won by Ruth Elson, Westfield, Chicago, Ill.; Rose L. Bery, Fellowship, Chicago.

Educational question: "How to run an essay contest."

First Prize, 10 points, won by Samuel Kramer, Bronx, N. Y.

Second Prize, 7 points each, won by Samuel Blauer, Northwest, Chicago, Ill.; Louis Josephson, Trenton, N. J.

Third Prize, 4 points each, won by Louis Sherman, Fellowship, Chicago, Ill.; R. Brumbaugh, Omaha, Neb.; Darwin B. Sherman, Rochester, N. Y.

Organizer's Question: "How to 'take up' new members."

First Prize, 10 points, won by Leon Josephson, Trenton, N. J.

Second Prize, 7 points each, won by J. Gold, Fellowship, Chicago, Ill.; Abe Lund, Patterson, N. J.

Third Prize, 4 points each, won by Aug. Marshalsky, Rochester, N. Y.; Paul Shogren, Newark, N. J.; Charles Karlik, Jr., Syracuse, N. Y.

Y. P. S. L. NOTES. San Francisco, Cal., reports complete reorganization meeting with 60 new members enrolled.

Salt Lake City, Utah, sends in the same kind of news with newcomers and the same number of dead star prospectives. They cleared \$26 on an entertainment and have held their meeting.

Terre Haute, Ind., is continuing its good work, having run a great river boat party with \$40 profit, a successful lawn fete, and a successful picnic.

Every league ought to contribute something toward the fund. A list of contributions thus far received is appended hereto, if your league is not on the list, it ought to be.

Y. P. S. L. Defense Fund. Jan. 1—Brought forward \$31.46

Jan. 2—St. Louis, Mo. 7.25

Jan. 7—Philadelphia, Pa. 2.00

Jan. 13—Seattle, Wash. 1.50

Feb. 12—Cleveland, O. (Enc.) 3.25

Feb. 23—North Side Pittsburgh, Pa. 14.05

June 9—Peoria, Ill. 5.00

June 15—Morristown, W. Va. 25.00

June 19—Arlington, N. J. 2.50

June 23—Newark No. 3 10.00

July 6—Douglas Park, Chicago, Ill. 4.00

July 19—Peoria, Ill. 8.60

July 21—Northwest, Chicago, Ill. 7.25

July 21—Watertown, N. Y. 5.00

Aug. 2—Ansonia, Conn. 10.25

Aug. 6—Bronx, New York 5.50

Aug. 6—Brooklyn, New York 10.85

Aug. 7—Rochester, N. Y. 4.00

Aug. 15—Rochester, N. Y. 7.60

Aug. 18—Baltimore, Md. 4.50

Aug. 24—McKeesport, Pa. 4.45

Aug. 28—West Side Chicago 8.00

TOTAL to date \$135.71

Coal miners of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania are to ask a substantial increase in wages. This was made known when the United Mine Workers of America invited coal operators of the central competitive field to meet with them at Indianapolis, Ind., September 6 and discuss the proposition.

One of the latest anti-Socialist raids took place in Philadelphia, Pa., when the Socialist Party book store was invaded by government agents and the local secretary and one member of the executive committee and two employees of the store were jailed before the local department of justice officials.

Defendant (in a loud voice)—Justice! Justice! I demand justice! Judge—Silence! The defendant will please remember that he is in a court room.—Ex.

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CONGRESS ASKED TO HALT SENDING TROOPS TO EUROPE

All of the capitalist dailies, so far as we have been able to discover, have completely ignored this important item of news. Representative Lundeen sits in Congress from the fifth Minnesota district, which includes Minneapolis. In a referendum of his constituents he got results as follows: for war, 2,033; against war, 16,822; for conscription, 3,198; against conscription, 15,831.

(BY STAFF CORRESPONDENT)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Representative Lundeen, of Minnesota, introduced a joint resolution in the House today (Thursday, August 30), seeking to repeal the conscription law in so far as it applies to service over the seas.

The resolution charges that conscription for foreign service is un-American and undemocratic and is a violation of the letter and spirit of the army-raising provisions of the constitution.

The text of Lundeen's resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, 'An act to authorize the president to increase temporarily the military establishment of the United States' is also known as the 'Selective Draft' or 'Selective Conscription' act; and

"WHEREAS, It is officially announced that American citizens, conscripted under said act, are to be transported to foreign countries to fight on foreign soil, against the true meaning and intent of the provisions of the constitution under which congress raises armies; and

"WHEREAS, the constitution provides, Article 1, Section 8, that the militia can only be used to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled that an 'Act Public, No. 12, 65th Congress, approved May 18, 1917, entitled an act to authorize the President to increase temporarily the military establishment of the United States', be, and the same is hereby, repealed."

Representative Lundeen issued the following statement in explanation of his resolution for the repeal of the conscription law for foreign service:

"We favor the repeal of an un-American statute, forcing the best blood of America to fight abroad. We cannot, we will not yield our right to discuss the conduct of war.

"Our forefathers left Europe to escape militarism, conscription and

oppression. They came for larger opportunity. They sought refuge here. We do not hold lightly the liberties they secured.

"No one disputes the right of any government to conscript for home defense when necessary. It is, however, officially announced that the so-called 'selective draft' is conscription for foreign service. No other nation has ever conscripted for service overseas. Many of America's greatest men fought every attempt at foreign conscription. Perhaps the greatest among these stands Daniel Webster, who made a powerful speech against conscription during our second war with Great Britain, 1812 to 1814, and that was war on a foreign and adjoining nation.

"We have now been at war five months and not one conscript is in camp. Yet these untrained men, raw levies who have never handled a military rifle, who are wholly unused to war—these are the men we intend to send against the veterans of Europe. It is nothing short of murder. Lord Kitchener refused to send his raw volunteers to France until fully trained, but we proceed to force millions of our own men, who know nothing of war, into the battle lines of France.

"Had we called for volunteers on April sixth instead of inflicting conscription, we would now have hundreds of thousands of American soldiers where not one man appears today. It may be said that the regular army called for voluntary enlistments. This was indeed done with conscription staring them in the face and often accompanied by the taunt that unless they did so enlist, they would be conscripted. Even printed posters to that effect were seen about the city of Washington. The American people showed plainly their resentment at such tactics.

"Today Great Britain holds nearly three million armed men within its island empire for home defense while we strip our nation of its defenders. The emperor of Japan wisely holds his vast and highly trained army at home for home defense. And yet Japan entered the war in its early stages.

"This resolution has been introduced because of an insistent and persistent demand that our troops be not sent to Europe. These are the armies of the American people and they have a right to be heard. Congress faced the conscription bill without any mandate from the people, we were not elected on that issue.

"If you want any further evidence, look at the exemptions claimed, running very high, more than 50 per cent. Yes, often they are reported as being between 80 and 90 per cent of the total accepted.

"Military training is a necessity in these evil days. We favor an adequate, a sane and sensible program of preparedness for home defense. Minneapolis and Minnesota have never yet failed the nation in time of war. Remember, we are Americans, we are not dumb driven cattle. We prefer to be free and untrammelled. Believing that I represent the majority

of my fellow citizens, I will continue to fight against conscription for foreign service and I will press it in every legitimate way."

The repeal of the conscription law is before the Senate in Senator Hardwick's bill, which reaches the end sought by Lundeen in a different manner.

Hardwick's Bill is as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, that for and during the period of the present war with the Imperial Government of Germany the following rules and regulations for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces of the United States shall be followed and observed:

"No person heretofore or hereafter drafted into the military service of the United States pursuant to any law thereof shall be ordered or required by the commander-in-chief of the army and navy, or by the military or naval authority, to render military service over the seas except in the territories or insular possession of the United States, unless and until such person shall have first voluntarily consented to such foreign service."

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs refused to give Senator Hardwick a public hearing on his resolution on the ground that the hearing would be embarrassing to the government in its war plans. The Senator from Georgia will have one hour to present his argument to an executive session of the committee.

Public opinion in favor of the repeal of the conscription law is strong in North Dakota. The repeal of the conscription law was not demanded in the National Non-Partisan League platform on which John M. Baer was recently elected to Congress from the first congressional district of that state. Nevertheless, Baer is receiving many petitions urging him to use his influence for the repeal of the law.

One petition, signed by names filling several pages, reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, loyal citizens of the State of North Dakota, having in mind the welfare of our beloved country and believing that it is for the best interest of the American people to defend our country against invasion by any foreign power by keeping our army and navy within the territorial limits of the United States, instead of sending our army and navy across the sea and into foreign countries, respectfully ask you, as our representative in Congress to use your influence against the transfer of our sons and brothers (who are now, or in the near future, may be serving in said forces) across the sea or into foreign countries."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—Ask your local editors why they didn't publish the fact that this important resolution was presented to congress.

Socialists Of Allied Countries Hold Peace Conference In London

SOCIALIST efforts toward peace have again taken the center of the world-stage with the assembling of the inter-allied Socialist and Labor Conference in London.

Announcement is also made of the proposed International Socialist Conference of Women from both belligerent and neutral countries to be held in Stockholm, Sept. 16-18, immediately following the International Socialist and Labor Peace Conference scheduled for Sept. 9-16.

Among the questions that will be discussed are the conditions of women's work and wages, the economic position of women who are the sole support of families, votes for women and their influence in preventing future wars, woman's ethical claim on public life.

THE London conference began Tuesday morning, August 28, under the presidency of Arthur Henderson, secretary of the British Labor Party, member of the British parliament, and former minister of the British cabinet without portfolio.

It was Henderson who made the British cabinet turn somersaults recently and nearly forced a parliamentary election. He, more than any one else, caused the British Labor Party to vote to send delegates to the Stockholm conference.

Some 70 delegates, representing Great Britain, Belgium, Russia, France, Portugal, Greece, South Africa and Italy are present. The purpose of the conference is to consider, and if possible agree on the policy to be followed in regard to the international Socialist Conference at Stockholm.

It is declared, however, that the chief subject for consideration by the conference is the war aims of the allies. A report on this subject has been drawn up by the executive committee of the British Labor Party, as well as by the French Socialist Party, and an effort will be made to reach an agreement.

IN OPENING the conference, Henderson, according to the official rep. rt, said:

"The conference has met to consider and determine as impartially and justly as possible the future attitude of labor and socialism in the allied countries to war and peace. The main issues involved in the world conflict are so fundamental, far reaching, and vital to the future of the human race as to demand dispassionate and faithful consideration both by the majority and minority sections of all the countries represented.

"The better course is to begin by a clear recognition of their differences in an endeavor to reach by mutual agreement a basis for war aims calculated to provide a lasting, honorable and democratic peace."

The British Socialist party presented a statement declaring there is common responsibility for the war and that reparation must be from a common fund contributed by all the belligerents.

Other conditions laid down are that the German colonies must be returned; there must be no action on the part of the victor countries to capture German trade; the people of Alsace-Lorraine shall decide their own government, and a similar course be applied to Poland, India, Egypt, Ireland and Algeria.

The commission appointed to consider the Stockholm conference decided by a majority vote to recommend that all sections of the Socialist labor organizations should be represented at this gathering and voiced a protest against the decision of the British government to refuse passports to delegates.

VORWAERTS, the German Socialist daily published at Berlin, sees competition between the Pope's peace efforts and the hopes of the Stockholm Socialist conference. It says:

"The pope's note would lead to the conciliatory peace desired by the partisans of the Stockholm conference—that is to say, the lame peace which the French socialist minister, Albert Thomas, rejects. Thus between Rome and Stockholm there is competition—honorable competition. The Catholic church by clever politics is endeavoring to achieve in the midst of innumerable difficulties the task undertaken by socialism."

THE central committee of the international socialist bureau has issued the following as the basis of representation at the coming socialist congress to be held at Stockholm:

Allies: United States, 20; England, 20; France, 20; Russia, 20; Belgium, 12; Italy, 10; Australia, 6; South Africa, 6; Serbia, 4; Canada, 2; and Roumania, 2.

Central Powers: Germany, 20; Austria, 20; Hungary, 8, and Bulgaria, 4.

Neutrals: Sweden, 12; Poland, 10; Denmark 10; Finland, 8; Norway, 6; Switzerland, 4; Greece, 4; Argentina, 4; Spain, 2; Portugal, 2; and Armenia, 2.

Some of the national delegates are more or less permanently divided, as follows:

England: Labor party, 10; British socialist party, 4; independent labor party, 4; and Fabian Society, 2.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGBAHL, Editor

Entry to second class mailing privileges applied for August 15, 1917, at the postoffice at Chicago, Ill., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1917.

Russia: Social revolutionists, 7; Mensheviks, 5; Bolsheviks, 5, and Jeurs Bund, 3.

United States: Socialist party, 15; socialist labor party, 1, and trades unions, 4.

The German delegation, it is stated, represents the majority and minority socialists in the proportion respectively of 12 to 8.

No explanation is given in the Stockholm dispatch for the inclusion of Portugal, Greece, Poland and Finland in the category of neutrals.

How About It, Northcliffe?

Some day the curtain will be swept aside, and we will get an inside view of the reasons for the unanimity among the great capitalist dailies in helping to bring on this war and ruthlessly forcing it down the throats of an unwilling people.

The munition's trust influence over the public press was laid bare some time ago in congress; it being shown that influential dailies, covering every section of the country, had been lined up in a deliberate campaign to promote war fever the nation over.

Now comes Senator Stone, Missouri, and charges that Lord Northcliffe the official representative of Great Britain in the United States, is responsible for the scurrilous newspaper campaign being waged against anti-administration members of congress.

Stone declares:

"I have been grossly assailed. The newspapers assumed I intended to do and say things I never dreamed of.

"Some editors denounced me in the most libelous way and caricatured me in the most venomous form. Epithets and cartoons were employed to put me before the readers as a slacker, traitor, German sympathizer and even a German spy.

"Is there not some sinister influence behind these things? The editor of the London Times and other British publications is honoring the United States by temporary residence. He is here with some sort of official sanction.

"But it is said his principal mission is to influence the American press. If that is so, his efforts so far have been crowned with marked success.

"Car it be that a public man will be pilloried if he does not pass the exacting test of my Lord Northcliffe's censorship?"

It is Lord Northcliffe's move! What has he got to say for himself?

We're Being Investigated

Now comes the American Bar Association, the union of highbrow lawyers, which convenes in national conclave at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., this week, and promises an investigation into the spread of Socialist propaganda in the United States.

It has been given out that these corporation lawyers fear that Socialist propaganda is "an attack on constitutional government, and particularly on the tenure and functions of the judicial departments of the various states and the nation."

No, the bar association will not invite a Socialist speaker to tell them how the rights guaranteed by the constitution are now being trampled under foot; how free speech, a free press and free assembly are being assassinated on the altar of Mars.

Still, the fact that they are being investigated, indicates that these upholders of the present system have opened their eyes at least a little to what is going on right under their noses.

"These fellows in congress—Sherman and La Follette—I say, to h— with them!" vociferously declares James A. Patten, the Chicago wheat king. No wonder, he has many millions that he doesn't want to have the government conscript for war purposes. We say, "To h— with Patten; take his millions and take them now; the government needs them." Wouldn't that make him howl.

Storm Signals In Germany

More and more the Socialists are winning the masses in Germany to their standards and away from the dominating influence of the Junkers. Robert Grimm, in his Socialist Berner (Switzerland) Tagwacht, writes:

"After three years of war we see semi-absolutist Germany cracking in all its members. This event will not surprise those who have even a superficial knowledge of the regime under which the German people suffer."

The paper then speaks of the resistance of the junkers who have neglected nothing to maintain their supremacy.

"The fall of the gods is inevitable now the strategy of Hindenburg has not succeeded in insuring the victory of German imperialism over Britain's world power, and Germany's colossal sacrifice has proved in vain. The junkers have never been small and they will continue to struggle until the last drop of oil in their lamps is consumed."

The Bund of Berner writes:

"It is hardly probable that a proposition such as the transformation of the present regime in Germany to a ministry responsible to parliament will meet with the approval of the majority, but it indicates the future."

"The way is to the left (the socialists), and not to the right (the conservatives). It is a lesson of the present world war and he who does not know how to correct his text-book according to it runs the risk of not needing a text-book."

Cyril Brown, in a cable to the New York World, says:

"Storm signs indicate the fiercest inner-political struggle of the war is approaching between the champions and the foes of democratization in Germany. A sufficiently large body of men, who represent important public opinion, has come at last to realize that democratization is an inevitable prerequisite to peace, with the result that a huge propaganda for 'parliamentarism and peace' is being carried on with typically ruthless Teuton thoroughness."

"The most significant development is that the National Liberals, who heretofore have played dog in the manger politics, have hastened to climb into the band wagon of parliamentarism. So there is now a solid political block in the reichstag, backed by a still more impressive majority of German people in favor of iron clad effective guarantees that the imperial government no longer shall make vital decisions without the full knowledge, advice and consent of the people's representatives."

"At no time during this correspondent's long war residence in Germany has there been such a measure of real freedom of speech and of the press. Thus Theodore Wolff dares to tell German people that they are not free citizens, but subjects and belong to the only kultur nation in which this feudal status still is maintained."

Porto Rico Going Socialist

Big financial interests, that have reaped untold profits out of pitiless exploitation of the submerged workers of Porto Rico, are still trying to explain the huge Socialist vote rolled up in the recent elections.

Our vote increased from 4,000 to 25,000 while that of the capitalist parties fell off enormously. It is gradually being realized that the conditions that made the Socialist Party the only hope of the Porto Ricans are fundamental and world-wide—the demand for labor for an ever larger share of the product of its labor.

The Socialists of Porto Rico demanded the control of the department of agriculture and labor by organized labor; the establishment of a people's bank to reduce prevailing high rates of interest; opening up of public lands for development into small farms by workers, assisted by government loans if necessary; provision of more public schools, so that the compulsory school law may be enforced; free schools and books and food and clothing for needy children; contracts for public works to be handled co-operatively by working organizations; an eight-hour day; equal pay for men and women for equal work; abolition of labor of children under 16 years; midweek day of rest; penitentiary and prisons to be replaced by model state farms and payment of segregated workers, exemption from taxation of property not exceeding \$500 in value; freedom of speech, press and public assembly; universal secret suffrage; establishment of the initiative, referendum and recall; proportional representation in national congress and insular legislature; abolition of veto by insular senate and the governor; and the abolition of capital punishment.

The workers of Porto Rico, citizens of the United States, will win under the Socialist standards in the next election.

Finances and the fear of Socialism and revolution in Europe may bring the war to an end more suddenly than has been dreamed of lately with all the outward prospects of a war to a finish, to complete exhaustion.—From The Allentown, Pa., News.

THE RED EXPRESS

DEAR COMRADE:—Did you get a package of papers addressed to the subscribers in your community? If so, please see that they are delivered!

The American Socialist has been denied second class mailing privileges. You know what this means—it means the death of the paper unless some means can be found to circumvent its enemies.

The death of The American Socialist, while a great loss to the party and the organization, might not be so serious if all the other Socialist and radical publications were allowed to continue using the mails. The agitation and the movement would still continue.

But this is not the case. Other publications are being suppressed daily. Presently there will be not a single Socialist paper of national circulation left to rally the workers and encourage them in the fight for freedom. We must not, we DARE NOT let this situation develop.

We must rally to the defense of our paper. We MUST see that, in spite of the denied second class privileges, it still goes regularly to its subscribers. Read the article in the last issue headed, "The Red Express," which outlines a plan for keeping the paper alive and growing. The details can be worked out in each community by the comrades who are acquainted with local conditions.

DON'T FAIL YOUR PARTY AND YOUR PAPER IN THIS GREAT CRISIS. OTHER COMRADES ARE GOING TO JAIL. SOME OF THEM, PERHAPS, WILL GIVE THEIR LIVES BEFORE THIS FIGHT IS WON. WE ARE ASKING YOU TO GIVE ONLY A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME EACH WEEK TO THIS IMPERATIVELY NECESSARY WORK.

IN THIS CRISIS THAT TRIES MEN'S SOULS WE ARE DEPENDING NOT ON CONSCRIPTS, BUT ON VOLUNTEERS. WRITE US THAT YOU ARE ONE UPON WHOM WE CAN DEPEND—THAT YOU HAVE ENLISTED UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR TO MAKE AMERICA SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY.

Some Of The Volunteers:

A FEW OF THOSE WHO DIDN'T WAIT TO BE DRAFTED WERE HEARD FROM AS FOLLOWS:

"For the last two weeks no one in Omaha got The American Socialist. The reason is well known to us. Send all the American Socialists for Omaha to the Local. We will elect a committee that will distribute the paper to the subscribers. Do not delay. The people are anxious for the paper."—Secretary, Local Omaha, Nebr.

"The Bronx Yipsels will voluntarily distribute American Socialist. Notify immediately number of Bronx subscribers, dates of shipment and possible arrival. Ship to party headquarters."—Secretary, Y. P. S. L., Bronx, N. Y. City.

"Send the papers and the mailing list to me. I and other comrades are willing to distribute them every week."—Racine, Wis.

"I see by the capitalist sheets that The American Socialist is cut out of the mails. I will rush a letter to the Locals of the state, telling them to get ready to distribute the paper if it becomes necessary. Let me and others know."—State Secretary, Indiana.

"To meet the emergency in delivering The American Socialists, we have organized a Com-

mittee to deliver the paper to all subscribers in this city. Kindly advise when the papers will reach here, so that our Committee will be ready.

—Local Organizer, Davenport, Ia.

"The Macon Local instructs me to advise you that they will distribute The American Socialist."

—Secretary, Local Macon, Ga.

"Your communication at hand, asking me to co-operate with you in the Red Express, I say 'Sure'. We must fight a good fight and we are bound to win. Send the papers to the address below, and I will see that they are distributed every week."—Barberton, O.

"This Local promises to distribute any and all copies of The American Socialist sent to us, for subscribers in this city."—Secretary Local, Clifton, Ariz.

"We have noticed in the daily papers that The American Socialist has been suppressed. The Local instructs me to have you send Sedalia's mailing list and papers by express and we will deliver them ourselves. Please let me know by return mail, so that we can be ready to get on the job."—Literature Agent, Local Sedalia, Mo.

"Realizing that The American Socialist must continue to be published, we, the Jamestown Y. P. S. L. assembled last Wednesday evening, decided to distribute The American Socialist in the City of Jamestown and the towns of Falconer and Celarun. Send the mailing list and the papers, and we will take care of the distribution."—Secretary Y. P. S. L., Jamestown, N. Y.

"Have just heard that you have been again barred from the mails. We MUST have the paper. Send me a list of subscribers and the papers and I will see that they reach their destination."—Secretary, Local Bartlesville, Okla.

"Will you print The American Socialist any more? If so, send all papers for Aberdeen to me, and I will see that they are delivered."—Secretary, Local Aberdeen, S. D.

"We have badly missed the last week's issue of your paper, and hope you can arrange to send us the papers addressed so that we can deliver them. We will continue to boost The American Socialist."—Secretary, Local Meadville, Pa.

"The Local wants to know if the National Headquarters is still issuing The American Socialist. If you are, Local instructs me to say that it is willing to help you keep it going by distributing it to all the readers in Moline."—Secretary, Local Moline, Ill.

"Resolved, Local Newport Socialist Party will act as a distributing agent for Campbell County, Ky., for all Socialist publications denied the use of the mails."—Secretary, Local Newport, Ky.

"In case bundles are sent here by express or otherwise, we will see that they are distributed."—Secretary, Local Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I am instructed by Elwood Local to inquire of you if you are still printing The American Socialist. If so, we want the papers for Elwood subscribers sent to us, and we will deliver them."—Secretary, Local Elwood, Ind.

"Has The American Socialist been excluded from the mails? I ask because I have failed to receive the last three issues. I for one am willing to pay my part of the extra cost of expressing it in bundles, and am willing to take upon myself the job of distributing them to the subscribers."—Dallas, Texas.

The Red Express Sub Blank

Local carriers of The Red Express can increase the subscription list of The American Socialist mightily by getting new subscribers while distributing their papers. We are publishing this "Red Express Sub Blank" in this issue for this special purpose. Make good use of it!

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST,

803 WEST MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Name Address City State Time of Sub. 6 months | One year

Name of Sender Address City State

Our Subscription Rates:—50 cents per year; 25 cents for six months.